

Response
Application No. 09/551,143
Attorney Docket No. 000489

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 7 and 21 - 34 are pending in the present application, of which claims 28 – 32 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 21 and 23 have each been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 31, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication on page 6 of the Action that claims 33 and 34 have been allowed.

Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the indication on page 5 of the Action that claims 5-7 and 25-27 would be allowable if amended, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

However, for at least the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 1-7 and 21-27 are allowable.

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As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:

Claims 1-4 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsuruoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,146).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response to Applicants' argument that the Examiner's reading of Tsuruoka's quasi-random array as a randomized array is unreasonable, since the rate of appearance in Tsuruoka is uniform and not random, the Examiner asserts that:

"Although the rate of appearance of the filter colors is uniform the location is random (col. 13, lines 46-50) and therefore the array is being read as a randomized array."¹

However, while the Applicants' do not agree with the Examiner's rebuttal, since the rate of appearance is uniform which leads to the characterization of "quasi-random" and not "random" in Tsuruoka, each of the independent claims 1, 3, 21 and 23 have been amended to include the language "but having no regularity," which was successfully relied upon in

¹ Please see, lines 6-8, page 3 of the Action.

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distinguishing allowed independent claim 33 from the teachings of Tsuruoka in page 12 of the Response filed on December 29, 2005.

For example, claim 1, as amended, now *recites a three-colored coding array corresponding to the pixel group, arranged in a randomized array satisfying predetermined minimum color density conditions but having no regularity*. Independent claims 3, 21 and 23 have each been amended in a similar manner.

That is, it is respectfully submitted that it has already been successfully argued that the array filter shown in Fig. 12A of Tsuruoka does not have regularity, since the rate of appearance of the filter colors R, G, B in each of the rows and columns of the array filter is uniform.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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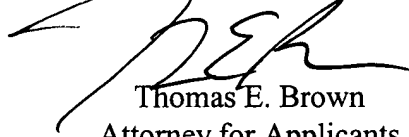
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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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